ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 8, 1983

TO: Sherry Otto ✓

FROM: Bob Wengrow Raw and Ken Bardo KB

SUBJECT: Groundwater Study: LPC 20103502 - Winnebago Co, Rockton/Soterion

The following information is submitted in request of a hydrogeologic study of the area in and around the Soterion, now known as United Recovery, facility.

1) Reason: Volatile chlororganic contamination of five private residences 100-500' northeast of United Recovery. Groundwater flow should be southwesterly toward the Rock River. The three residences with high values probably have shallow wells (45-50') and less affected or unaffected residences have deeper wells (65'+). At approximately 50 to 60' is a clay layer that should isolate the two sand and gravel aquifers. Wells are primarily contaminated with 1,1,1-trichloroethane.

2) History: Soterion, and now United Recovery, recycles metal grindings by washing them with soap to remove cutting oils. The waste is then dried, packaged and sold to the steel industry. Complaints of this company mostly concern air pollution but oil spills and an alleged direct pumping of an unknown waste into a nearby dry well have been reported.

   Beloit Corp. to the north and west has also been investigated. Three seepage lagoons on site were found to contain minor amounts of volatile chlororganics. They admitted large amounts of VOC's were used in the past but all these solvents have now been eliminated from the facility. A questionable practice by Beloit Corp. occurred in October of 1981 when they agitated the lagoons and injected the slurry into the soil subsurface just north and west of United Recovery and the affected residences.

3) Investigational Information: The placement of approximately four shallow (water table surface) and four deep (bottom of first sand and gravel aquifer above clay) wells will be used to determine groundwater flow and monitor VOC quantities. Results should attempt to pinpoint the source of organic contamination. This study can be done in conjunction with that at Sand Park.

cc: Division File
Rockford Region